

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /142 W
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R 200440 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8865

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

MACV

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

USDEL FRANCE UNN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4522

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT MR-2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, MARCH 13-19

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THE SEVENTH WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE WAS NOT A VERY EVENTFUL
ONE IN MR 2. THE CLOSER WE GET TO X PLUS 60, HOWEVER, THE
GREATER THE UNCERTAINTIES SEEM TO BECOME. THE AREA OF MOST
IMMEDIATE DOUBT IS THE FUTURE OF THE PEACEKEEPING MACHINERY:
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WHETHER THE CANDIANS WILL REMAIN IN THE ICCS, AND, EVEN IF THEY DO, WHETHER THERE WILL YET BE A FUNCTIONING FPJMC AND ULTIMATELY A TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION. THE TWO QUESTIONS ARE IN SOME WAYS INSEPARABLE, FOR EVIDENCE MOUNTED DURING THE WEEK THAT THE ICCS, AT LEAST IN TRUCE REGIONS 3 AND 4, CANNOT FUNCTION VERY EFFECTIVELY EVEN WITH CANADIAN PRESENCE UNLESS THERE IS A PARALLEL JMC STRUCTURE IN OPERATION.

2. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, ICCS INVESTIGATIONS (AND EVEN FAMILIARIZATION TOURS) CAN AND DO GO OFF THE TRACK AT ANY MOMENT AND FOR VIRTUALLY ANY REASON-- GOOD, BAD, OR SIMPLY MYSTERIOUS. THE INVESTIGATIONS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN TRUCE REGION3 , AND POINTED TO LAST WEEK AS A HOPEFUL SIGN, HAVE MOSTLY GONE AWRY IN VARIOUS WAYS. IN BINH DINH, THE PHU CAT POLDEL REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE (NO REASON GIVEN) AND THE HUNGDEL, WHICH DID PARTICIPATE, SUBMITTED A DISSENTING REPORT. AN INVESTIGATION IN DARLAC WAS CANCELLED BY REGIONAL HQ WITHOUT EXPLANATION. INVESTIGATION OF FOUR RANDOMLY- CHOSEN INCIDENTS IN PHU YEN HAS YET TO BEGIN BECAUSE OF PROCEDURAL WRANGLING, AND EVEN A GUIDED TOUR BROKE DOWN WHEN THE HUNGARIANS CHOSE TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO SOME OF THE GVN' S ANTI-COMMUNIST BANNERS. ONLY IN KHANH HOA WERE INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED THROUGH TO CONCLUSION BY ALL ELEMENTS OF A SUB-REGIONAL TEAM LEVEL, AND IN THIS INSTANCE WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE RESULTS.

3. WORSE STILL, THE CANADIANS IN TRUCE REGION 3 HAVE BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ROTATE THEIR PERSONNEL FROM POST TO POST WITHIN THE GRION ON THE BASIS OF A 16- DAY INDIVIDUAL TOUR, WITH ONE CANADIAN LEAVING EACH SITE AND ANOTHER ARRIVING EVERY EIGHT DAYS. THE PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO EQUALIZE THE HARDSHIPS AND ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS STUCK IN A PLACE LIKE DUC CO OR BEN HET FOR WEEKS OR MONTHS ON END, BUT THE PRACTICAL EFFECT WILL BE TO DEPRIVE THE CANADIANS EVERYWHERE OF CONTINUITY VIS- A- VIS THE STATIONARY EAST EUROPEANS, WITH WHOM CANDELS OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIPS. THE INDONESIANS REPORTEDLY PLAN TO IMITATE THE CANADIANS; THE HUNGARIANS APPARENTLY DO NOT; AND THE POLES, AT LAST REPORT, HAD NOT FINALLY DECIDED.

4. IN TRUCE REGION 4, BY CONTRAST, ANY MOTION (OTHER THAN THE CANADIAN ROTATION PROGRAM) WOULD BE WELCOME; THE STATUS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PEACE- KEEPING APPARATUS REMAINS AS BEFORE, WITH ICCS

INVESTIGATIONS GENERALLY STYMIED BY INTERNATIONAL DISAGREEMENT
ORVER PROCEDURES AND/ OR BY THE LACK OF AUTHORIZATIONS FROM
SAIGON. THE PRG AS WELL AS THE DRV REMAIN IN PHAN THIET AT
FULL STRENGTH BUT SHOW NO SIGNS OF DEPLOYING BELOW REGIONAL
LEVEL. ANOTHER ICCS TOUR ABORTED IN THIS TRUCE REGION WITH
A LAST- MINUTE REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE BY POLES AND HUNGARIANS;
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST BY THE DALAT TEAM, WHICH
OTHERWISE HAS HARDLY LEFT ITS COMPOUND.

5. IN SHORT, WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE
CEASEFIRE REACHES A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE, THE JMC IS NOT REALLY
OPERATIONAL IN THIS MR AND THE ICCS IS EXPERIENCING A RENEWAL
OF INTERNAL DIVISIONS AS IT GETS DOWN TO CASES. FURTHERMORE, THE
ICCS IN TRUCE REGIONS 3 AND 4 HAS WILLED AWAY WHATEVER LOCAL OR
REGIONAL AUTONOMY IT MIGHT HAVE CLAIMED IN INVESTIGATORY
MATTERS; SUB- REGION WAITS TO HERE FROM REGION, AND REGION
NORMALLY WAITS FOR SAIGON' S OK.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS AT A GENERALLY LOW LEVEL DURING THE WEEK
AND WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF BIENH DINH
AND THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF PLEIKU PROVINCE. AT THE SAME TIME,
ANOTHER OF THE UNCERTAINTIES-- THIS ONE OVER ENEMY INTENTIONS ONCE
ALL US TROOPS HAVE GONE-- APPREARED TO MOUNT, WITH ADDITIONAL
REPORTS OF NVA TROOP REPLACEMENTS AND SUPPLIES REACHING WESTERN
PLEIKU IN CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS. THE NVA PRESENCE NO GREAT
DISTANCE FROM KONTUM CITY HAS BEEN REPORTEDPREVIOUSLY. WE
ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PRE- EMTIVE ACTION BY ARVN IN THE WESTERN
HIGHLANDS AND, AS OUR POLOFF IN KONTUM HAS COMMENTED BEFORE,
THE POSTURE OF THE ARVN 23 RD DIVISION HAS BEEN LARGELY
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